

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-70 without prejudice to prosecuting the claims in a divisional application. Please add new claims 100-136 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously presented) A method of oral cleansing by consuming a chewing gum comprising:

- a) a gum base;
- b) a flavor;
- c) a sweetener; and
- d) cardamom oil;

and the chewing gum is chewed in the oral cavity to cleans the oral cavity, the cardamom oil being present in an amount effective to be an antimicrobial agent.

72. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present up to about 5.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

73. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present up to about 1.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present up to about 0.25% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

75. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present up to about 0.01% by weight of the chewing gum product.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises a food acceptable zinc or copper salt of an acid selected from

the group consisting of gluconic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, and citric acid; and combinations thereof.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises pyrophosphate or polyphosphate.

78. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

79. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein said cardamom oil is spray dried.

80. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein said chewing gum composition is coated.

81. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein said cardamom oil is present in said coating.

82. (Original) The method of claim 81, wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises a high intensity sweetener selected from the group consisting of, sucralose, aspartame, NAPM derivatives such as neotame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizinate, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, and combinations thereof.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises a medicament.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises an active agent.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises a cooling agent selected from the group consisting of menthol, ethyl p-menthane carboxamide, N,2,3 - trimethyl-2-isopropyl-butanamide, menthyl glutarate FEMA 4006, menthyl succinate, menthol PG carbonate, menthol

EG carbonate, menthyl lactate, menthone glyceryl ketal, menthol glyceryl ether, N-tert-butyl-p-menthane-3-carboxamide, p-menthane-3-carboxylic acid glycerol ester, methyl2-isopryl-bicyclo (2.2.1), heptane-2-carboxamide, menthol methyl ether and combinations thereof.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum is formulated to deliver at least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the chewing gum further comprises an oral health ingredient.

89. (Canceled)

90. (Previously presented) A method of oral cleansing by consuming a confectionery product containing an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein said antimicrobial agent is cardamom oil.

91. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein said cardamom oil is present in an amount up to 3% by weight of the confectionery product.

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein said cardamom oil is present in an amount of about 1% by weight of the confectionery product, said confectionery product comprising a chewing gum product.

93. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the form of said confectionery product is a hard candy.

94. (Original) The method of claim 93, wherein said hard candy contains about 1.0% to about 4% moisture by weight of the confectionery product.

95. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the form of said confectionery product is a chewing candy.

96. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the form of said confectionery product is a coated chewy center candy.

97. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the form of said confectionery product is a tabletted candy.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the confectionery product further comprises a color.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the confectionery product further comprises a flavor.

100. (New) A chewing gum composition comprising:
a) a gum base;
b) a sweetener;
c) a flavor; and
d) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil.

101. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 5.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

102. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

103. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 0.25% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

104. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a food acceptable zinc or copper salt of an acid selected from the group consisting of gluconic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, and citric acid; and combinations thereof.

105. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising pyrophosphate or polyphosphate.

106. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

107. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein said cardamom oil is spray dried.

108. (New) A coated chewing gum product made from the composition of claim 100.

109. (New) The product of claim 108 wherein said cardamom oil is present in said coating.

110. (New) The product of claim 108 wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

111. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a high intensity sweetener selected from the group consisting of, sucralose, aspartame, NAPM derivatives such as neotame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizinate, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, and combinations thereof.

112. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a medicament.

113. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 112, wherein the medicament comprises an oral cleansing or breath freshening compound selected from the group consisting of a pH control agent, inorganic components for tartar or caries control, a breath freshening agent, an antiplaque/anti-gingivitis agent, a saliva stimulating agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a nutraceutical agent, a vitamin, a mineral and combinations thereof.

114. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising an active agent.

115. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a cooling agent selected from the group consisting of menthol, ethyl p-menthane carboxamide, N,2,3 - trimethyl-2-isopropyl-butanamide, menthyl glutarate FEMA 4006, menthyl succinate, menthol PG carbonate, menthol EG carbonate, menthyl lactate, menthone glyceryl ketal, menthol glyceryl ether, N-tert-

butyl-p-menthane-3-carboxamide, p-menthane-3-carboxylic acid glycerol ester, methyl2-isopryl-bicyclo (2.2.1), heptane-2-carboxamide, menthol methyl ether and combinations thereof.

116. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the chewing gum composition is formulated to deliver at least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

117. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising an oral health ingredient.

118. (New) A confectionery product comprising:

- a) a sweetener
- b) a flavor; and
- c) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil.

119. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein said cardamom oil is present in an amount from about 0.01% to about 3% by weight of the confectionery product.

120. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein said cardamom oil is present in an amount from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight of the confectionery product.

121. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the form of said confectionery product is a hard candy.

122. (New) The confectionery product of claim 121 wherein said hard candy contains about 1.0% to about 4% moisture by weight of the confectionery product.

123. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the form of said confectionery product is a chewing candy.

124. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the form of said confectionery product is a coated chewy center candy.

125. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the form of said confectionery product is a pressed tablet.

126. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the confectionery product further comprises inorganic components for tartar or caries control selected from the group consisting of phosphates and fluorides.

127. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 further comprising a breath freshening agent comprising zinc gluconate.

128. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 further comprising an anti-plaque/anti-gingivitis agent selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, CPC and triclosan.

129. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 further comprising a saliva stimulating agent comprising a food acid.

130. (New) The confectionery product of claim 129 wherein the food acid is selected from the group consisting of citric, lactic, maleic, succinic, ascorbic, adipic, fumaric, tartaric and combinations thereof.

131. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a material selected from the group consisting of essential oils, synthetic flavors, fruit essences, anise, flavor oils with germ killing properties and mixtures thereof.

132. (New) The composition of claim 118 wherein the flavor is selected from the group consisting of citrus oil, spearmint oil, mint oil, clove oil, oil of wintergreen and combinations thereof.

133. (New) The composition of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a flavor oil with germ killing properties selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, thymol and combinations thereof.

134. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the product delivers at least about 0.1% by weight cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

135. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the product delivers at least about 0.01% by weight cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

136. (New) The confectionery product of claim 118 wherein the product delivers at least about 0.005% by weight cardamom oil too the oral cavity.